

## **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

### **STAFF NOTE**

#### **Review Item:**

Update regarding district implementation of Kentucky's Secondary GED program

#### **Applicable Statute or Regulation**

704 KAR 7:150, Secondary GED Program

#### **History/Background:**

***Existing Policy.*** 704 KAR 7:150, Secondary GED Program became final on February 16, 2005. The Secondary GED program is optional and is an available district resource and intervention for a potential dropout student that offers the opportunity for the student to stay in school and prepare for and obtain the GED certificate (Kentucky High School Equivalency Diploma). An eligible student is one who has the academic capability to complete high school graduation requirements but who is behind the cohort group in the credits needed to graduate. The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE), the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and Kentucky Adult Education/Council on Postsecondary Education (KAE/CPE) are committed to offering educational options to ensure individual student success. The Kentucky Secondary GED Option program will ensure:

- Students have access to high quality, high level instruction
- Students receive adequate support services including advising and counseling
- Individual students have maximum opportunity for success

Since the regulation has been finalized, fifteen districts have contacted KDE with strong interest in the program. Four districts have started to operate a Secondary GED program in at least one high school in their district and six districts have indicated that a Secondary GED program would be offered in the 2005-2006 school year.

The chart below describes programs that are currently operating Secondary GED programs:

| <b>District</b>          | <b>School(s)</b>     | <b>Number of Students Being Served</b> | <b>Location of Program</b>                 | <b>Curriculum materials being used</b>                        | <b>Additional educational opportunities</b>  |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Barren                   | Barren County High   | 2                                      | Adult Education Center                     | KET GED instructional resources                               | Career and Technical Education (CTE)   |
| Fayette                  | Bryan Station High   | 3                                      | High School                                | KET GED instructional resources                               | Career and Technical Education, cooperative learning projects, dual credit, performance-based credit options |
| Somerset Independent     | Somerset High School | 2                                      | Wright Steps Academy (alternative program) | GED Twenty First Century (electronic instructional materials) | Career and Technical Education and dual credit with KCTCS of Somerset  |
| Williamstown Independent | Williamstown High    | 2                                      | High school                                | Barron's GED (CD-ROM)   | Career and Technical Education   |

The districts that are planning for implementation in 2005-2006 are:

- Jessamine County
- Nelson County
- Meniffee County
- Jackson County
- Hardin County
- Graves County

The Kentucky Virtual High School now offers a Secondary GED course that is available to districts/schools for instructional purposes. The cost of the course is \$100 per student per semester. KDE is offering four scholarships to students who utilize the course as part of their instructional program.

KDE staff offered an overview session of the Secondary GED program at the Kentucky Teaching and Learning Conference in March and will be providing several overview sessions at larger conferences this summer and fall (Kentucky Association of School Administrators, Upper Cumberland Special Education Cooperative Summer Institute, Ashland Community and

Technical College Fall Conference, etc). Districts are contacting KDE staff on an as-needed basis for technical assistance.

Adult Education is finalizing amendments to its regulation (785 KAR 1:130 Eligibility Requirements). The proposed amendments recognize the GED Secondary Program. A public hearing for this regulation will be held on May 26 and any public comment will be shared at the KBE meeting on June 8.

**Contact Person:**

Starr Lewis, Associate Commissioner  
Office of Academic and Professional Development  
502/564-5130  
slewis@kde.state.ky.us

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**Deputy Commissioner**

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**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

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